

REMARKS

In an Office Action dated February 13, 2009, Claims 24 and 25 of the present application were rejected. Herein, Claim 24 is currently amended, Claim 25 is cancelled, and Claims 38-40 are added. No new matter has been added. Claims 24 and 38-40 are believed to be allowable over the prior art of record. Further examination and reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

Minor amendments to the specification have been made to correct various editorial and idiomatic errors. No new matter has been added.

Claim 24 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hidese (U.S. Patent No. 6,606,790 B2, hereafter "Hidese"). The Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejection based on the amendments to the claims and the remarks below.

Claim 24 recites, in part, a plurality of sensors for posture inspection, the sensors being arranged with respect to the nozzle rows, respectively, and being arranged so that the centers of fields of view of the sensors are aligned in the X direction. This feature of Claim 24 is not disclosed or suggested in Hidese.

Hidese discloses a camera positioned on a transfer head to recognize the position of a board on the rail (Hidese, Col.7, Lines 52-65). Further, the camera is positioned on the transfer head so that the center of the field of view of the camera is orthogonal to the X direction (Hidese, FIG.3A, item 17). Thus, Hidese does not disclose or suggest a plurality of sensors for posture inspection, the sensors being arranged with respect to the nozzle rows, respectively, and being arranged so that the centers of fields of view of the sensors are aligned in the X direction.

Additionally, Claim 24 recites, in part, one lighting unit shared among the sensors and the lighting unit having an entrance port of optical information, the entrance port being shared among the sensors. These features of Claim 24 are not disclosed or suggested in Hidese.

Hidese discloses a line camera disposed between the rail and feeder carriage which captures the image of a component from beneath when a head passes over the line camera, i.e. the line camera is located in a stationary position with respect to the head (Hidese, Col.4 Lines 37-44, FIG.1, item

10). Hidese also discloses a reflector that reflects light from underneath to illuminate the component when the line camera captures an image, i.e. the reflector is located in a stationary position with respect to the head (Hidese, Col.5, Lines 49-52).

Contrast this to the present claim in which the lighting unit and entrance port are shared among the sensors, the sensors of Claim 24 being located on the inspection unit and arranged independently for respective nozzle rows. The inspection unit of Claim 24 is disposed on a moving path of the head. Thus, the lighting unit and the entrance port are also located on the inspection unit if shared by the sensors, that is the lighting unit and entrance port are located on a moving path. Therefore, Hidese does not disclose or suggest one lighting unit shared among the sensors and the lighting unit having an entrance port of optical information, the entrance port being shared among the sensors as claimed in Claim 24.

Based on the amended limitations and the above remarks, the Applicant believes Claim 24 is patentable over Hidese.

Further, Claims 38-40 are patentable over Hidese based at least on their dependency from allowable Claim 24.

Therefore, for at least the reasons presented above, it is submitted that independent Claim 24, as well as the claims depending therefrom, are clearly allowable over the prior art of record.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remark, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is clearly in condition for allowance. An early notice thereof is earnestly solicited.

If after reviewing this Amendment, the Examiner feels there are any issues remaining which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned by telephone in order to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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